

Message Text

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SUBJECT: US-USSR ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT: VISIT OF
MARINE POLLUTION DELEGATION (02.06-11)

REF: MOSCOW 10702

1. US MARINE POLLUTION DELEGATION RECENTLY COMPLETED
13 DAY VISIT TO THE USSR. DELEGATION VISITED
INSTITUTES AND FACILITIES CONNECTED WITH OIL SPILL
CLEAN UP PROCEDURES IN MOSCOW, KIEV, AND RIGA.
DELEGATION MEMBERS EXPRESSED MIXED FEELINGS ABOUT THE
RESULTS OF THE VISIT, COMMENTING THAT IN KIEV
DELEGATION WAS GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO OBSERVE OIL
DISPERSAL FACILITIES WHICH USE BACTERIA FOR FINAL
RESOLUTION OF THE OIL, WHICH GROUP HAS LONG SOUGHT
TO SEE. HOWEVER, IN RIGA DELEGATION SPENT AN ENTIRE
DAY AT A KOLKHOZ FISH FARM, IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT
NO ONE IN DELEGATION HAD SLIGHTEST INTEREST IN FISH
FARMING. (EMBASSY NOTES THAT ADVANCE ITINERARY FOR
VISIT (REF) DOES NOT APPEAR TO INCLUDE VISIT TO FISH
FARM.)

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2. MOST DELEGATION MEMBERS EXPRESSED VIEW THAT IN
THE SIX YEARS OF COOPERATION UNDER THE MARINE POLLUTION
WORKING GROUP SOVIETS HAVE GAINED MORE INFORMATION THAN
HAS US. DELEGATION MEMBERS BELIEVE US TECHNOLOGY AND
FACILITIES FOR OIL SPILL CLEAN UP ARE FAR SUPERIOR TO
THOSE POSSESSED BY THE SOVIETS. HOWEVER, DELEGATION

MEMBERS NOTED AN INTEREST IN FURTHER STUDY OF SOVIET BACTERIAL OIL DISPERSAL TECHNIQUES AND IN LEARNING ABOUT SOVIET TECHNIQUES FOR CLEANING OIL SPILLS IN ICE FILLED WATER. (SOVIETS HAVE NEVER SHOWN US ANY FACILITIES IN LATTER AREA, AND FATE OF US-SOVIET NON-COOPERATION IN ICEBREAKERS OFFERS LITTLE HOPE THAT SOVIETS WILL BE MORE FORTHCOMING IN THE FUTURE.) HOWEVER, DELEGATION LEADER ALSO NOTED THAT PERSONAL CONTACTS DEVELOPED OVER SEVERAL YEARS OF COOPERATION IN MARINE POLLUTION WORKING GROUP HAVE BEEN USEFUL IN FACILITATING US-SOVIET COOPERATION IN THE IMCO.

3. US DELEGATION LEADER EXPRESSED CONCERN TO SOVIET HOST THAT ORIGINAL INTERPRETER, A. BELIAJEFF, WAS DENIED A SOVIET VISA. DELEGATION LEADER ALSO INFORMED SOVIETS THAT BELIAJEFF WILL BE APPLYING FOR A SOVIET VISA TO ACCOMPANY US DELEGATION FOR RETURN VISIT IN 1979 AND US DELEGATION MEMBERS ANTICIPATE THAT BELIAJEFF WILL BE GRANTED A VISA AT THAT TIME. SOVIET HOSTS PROFESSED IGNORANCE ABOUT REASONS FOR BELIAJEFF VISA DENIAL. (US DELEGATION MEMBERS, HOWEVER, INFORMED EMBOFF THAT BELIAJEFF WRITES FOR RUSSIAN EMIGRE PAPER "NOVOYE RUSSKOYE SLOVO" IN NEW YORK AND FOR ANOTHER EMIGRE PAPER IN PARIS.)

4. COMMENT. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT US INTERESTS IN UNCLASSIFIED

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MARINE POLLUTION WORKING GROUP WOULD BE BETTER SERVED BY MOVING FROM YEARLY EXCHANGE OF MULTI-MEMBER DELEGATIONS, WHICH VISIT SEVERAL DISPARATE INSTITUTIONS, TO AN EXCHANGE OF A SMALLER NUMBER OF SPECIALISTS, WHO WOULD REMAIN FOR A LONGER PERIOD IN ONE OR TWO INSTALLATIONS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO THE US. IN ANY CASE, US SHOULD INFORM SOVIETS IN WRITING WELL IN ADVANCE ABOUT THE SPECIFIC INTERESTS OF THE US SPECIALISTS AND ABOUT THE SOVIET INSTALLATIONS WHICH THE TEAM WISHES TO VISIT. US VISIT SHOULD BE CONTINGENT ON SOVIET FULFILLMENT OF THESE REQUESTS. TOON

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